GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:538
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
USE OF RUBBER IN CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any step has been taken to rubberise roads using natural rubber;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the kilometres rubberised so far, Sector-wise

(a) Express Highways,

(b) National Highways,

(c) Other Roads;

(d) the advantages of rubberisation of roads and the future plans in this regard;

(e) whether rubberisation using natural rubber latex is better and more durable for roads than using artificial or polymer mix;

(f) if so, facts thereof;

(g) whether natural rubber is available in India in sufficient quantity; and

(h) if not, steps being taken to encourage natural rubber for rubberisation of roads?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (MAJOR GENERAL (RETI KHANDURI, AVSM)

(a),(b) & (c) In order to provide more durable roads, the Government has decided to introduce the use of rubber/polymer modified bitumen in the construction and maintenance of National Highways.536 kilometres of National Highways have been provided with surfacing using modified bitumen so far. This Ministry is responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways only.

(d) The studies have revealed that rubber/polymer modified bitumen provides more durable roads by reducing susceptibility towards temperature variations and improving other desirable properties of the bitumen thereby giving overall better performance. The Government has decided to use the modified bitumen in at least 10% of periodical renewal works and also in bituminous wearing course of original works on heavily trafficked sections of National Highways.

(e) & (f) The relative performance and economics of different types of modified bitumen under variable conditions of traffic, climates etc. is yet to be established.

(g) Yes Sir.

(h) Does not arise.